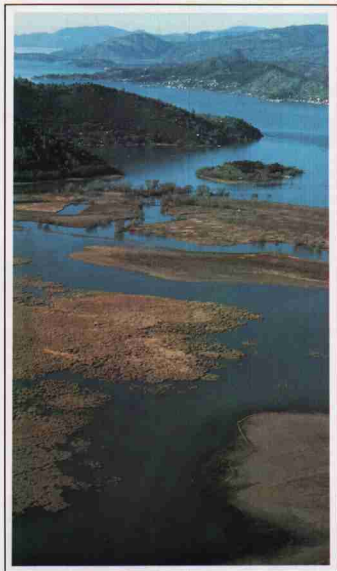


Anderson Marsh State Historic Park



California State Park Information

For information about State Park hours of operation, fees, annual passes or specific park regulations, you may contact your nearest State Park. Please check the front of your telephone directory under State Government, Department of Parks and Recreation.

For general State Park information, contact the Public Affairs Office at P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0001 or call (916)653-6995.

For camping reservations call MISTIX at (800)444-7275.

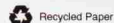
For a catalog of State Park merchandise or for a listing of all State Park publications and videos, write to California State Park Store, P.O. Box 942896, Sacramento, CA 94296-0001 or call (916)653-4000.



PETE WILSON
Governor

DOUGLAS F. WHEELER
Secretary for Resources

DONALD W. MURPHY
Director of Parks and Recreation
P.O. Box 942896
Sacramento, CA 94296-0001



Welcome to Anderson Marsh State Historic Park, located on the southeast corner of Clear Lake, the largest natural lake completely within the borders of California.

Here is an opportunity to explore the past at the historic Anderson Ranch, with its nineteenth century structures. If you like to hike, you can take advantage of miles trails. Trailside signs offer insight into understanding the native plants and animals of the park.



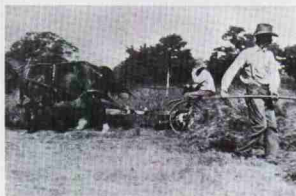
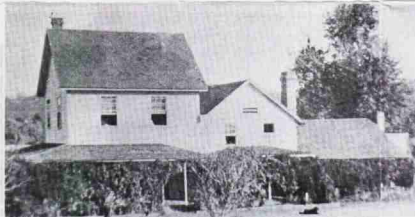
Pomo in rush balsa canoe on Clear Lake about 1890. Photo courtesy of Southwest Museum, Los Angeles, California.

NATIVE AMERICANS

One of the largest groups of people in prehistoric California, the Southeastern Pomo, knew this land as home. Today, descendants of those people still live nearby. Anderson Marsh's archaeological sites hold clues to the lives of the Pomo. Some sites are over 10,000 years old, making them among the oldest in California.

The Southeastern Pomo, as many as 1,000 of them, had their community center and major village on Indian Island, a portion of which is now protected by the State Park System through a conservation easement. The Pomo built their houses and other structures using bent poles tied together and covered with tule mats. Extended families lived together in houses during the winter. For summer-time use, they built open ramadas. Sweathouses, some of them 15 to 20 feet in diameter, were used by males only. The largest structure was a semi-subterranean lodge where the people gathered for sacred ceremonies and rituals.

John M. Grigsby (1831-1914)



RANCH HISTORY

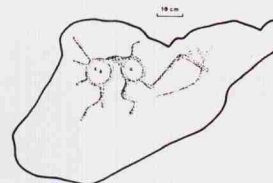
Euroamerican hunters and trappers explored the Clear Lake area in the late 1820s, but the first "permanent" white settlement in the vicinity of the present-day park did not occur until 1855. In that year, Achilles Fine and John Melchisadeck Grigsby, two brothers who came by ox team from Tennessee, settled here to raise livestock and agricultural produce. The central portion of the existing ranch house and the oldest of the barns were probably built by the Grigsbys during their fifteen-year residence on the property.

Between 1866 and 1868, large portions of the property were flooded due to the downstream damming of Cache Creek. In 1868, J. M. Grigsby brought suit against the Clear Lake Water Works Company in response to the flooding of his farm lands. Initially, Grigsby won the case, but an appeal to the Supreme Court later reversed the

decision on legal technicalities in favor of the Water Works Company.

In 1870, J. M. Grigsby sold his land to the Clear Lake Water Works Company. The company held title to the property until 1882, when it transferred title to its subsidiary corporation, the California Agricultural Improvement Association. Together, these companies owned several parcels of land around the lake and engaged in dairy operations. They also raised hay and maintained several vineyards and fruit orchards near the present day park.

In 1885, John Still Anderson, a Scottish immigrant, bought land from the company. Thereafter, Anderson, along with his wife and six children, operated a cattle ranch near the marsh. The Andersons added the tallest wing to the ranch house in 1886. Members of the Anderson family continued to live and work here until the late 1960s.



A drawing based on an actual Native American petroglyph. (Rock art)



The Pomo were experts at basket weaving, building tule boats, making nets, bows and arrows, and working with various kinds of stone and obsidian objects. Though their meaning remains a mystery, several petroglyphs (rock engravings) have been found within the park.

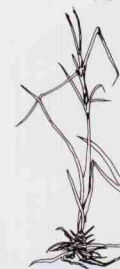
The marsh we know today as Anderson Marsh provided a wide variety of food for the Pomo. They ate fish, shellfish, acorns, waterfowl, deer and small game, as well as clover, pine nuts, tule shoots, roots, bulbs, fruits, and berries.

Through long tradition and careful observation, the Southeastern Pomo came to know the plant world very well. Not only did they know how to use plant materials, they knew where they grew, the best gathering time, and how to prepare them for different purposes.

Willow

The Indians used strong, resilient willow more than any other material for making baskets. They also steeped a medicinal tea from willow bark, and used the branches for building houses.

The shrubs or small trees generally grow near water.



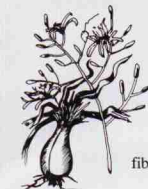
Sedge

Basketmakers prized the long sedge roots for use as the horizontal strands of their baskets. In the spring, they dug the roots, split and cleaned them, then dried them for up to a year before use.

Sedges can usually be recognized by their triangular stems — "sedges have edges."

Tule

The Southeastern Pomo found numerous uses for the dense strands of tules growing in the marshes around the lake. They ate the roots and seeds, wove the roots in basketmaking, and wove the long stalks or leaves into mats, skirts, moccasins, and coverings for houses. Tied into bundles and lashed together, the stalks made buoyant "tule boats."



Soaproot

Soaproot has exceptionally varied uses. The Indians processed the bulbs to produce soap, shampoo, fish poison, glue, food, and medicine. They made a brush from the fibers and extracted a tattoo dye from the long fluted leaves.



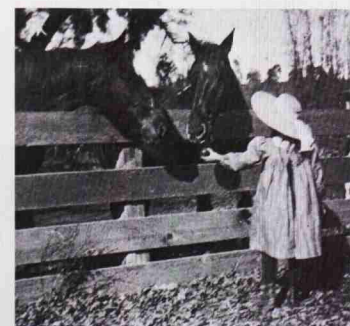
RATTLESNAKES

Rattlesnakes are important members of the local natural community. They will not attack unless disturbed or cornered. Give them distance and respect.



POISON OAK

Poison oak is found throughout the park. If you are not familiar with it, ask a ranger to show you what it looks like. During the summer, poison oak can be identified by its shiny green leaves, which grow in groups of three. The leaves turn red in autumn.

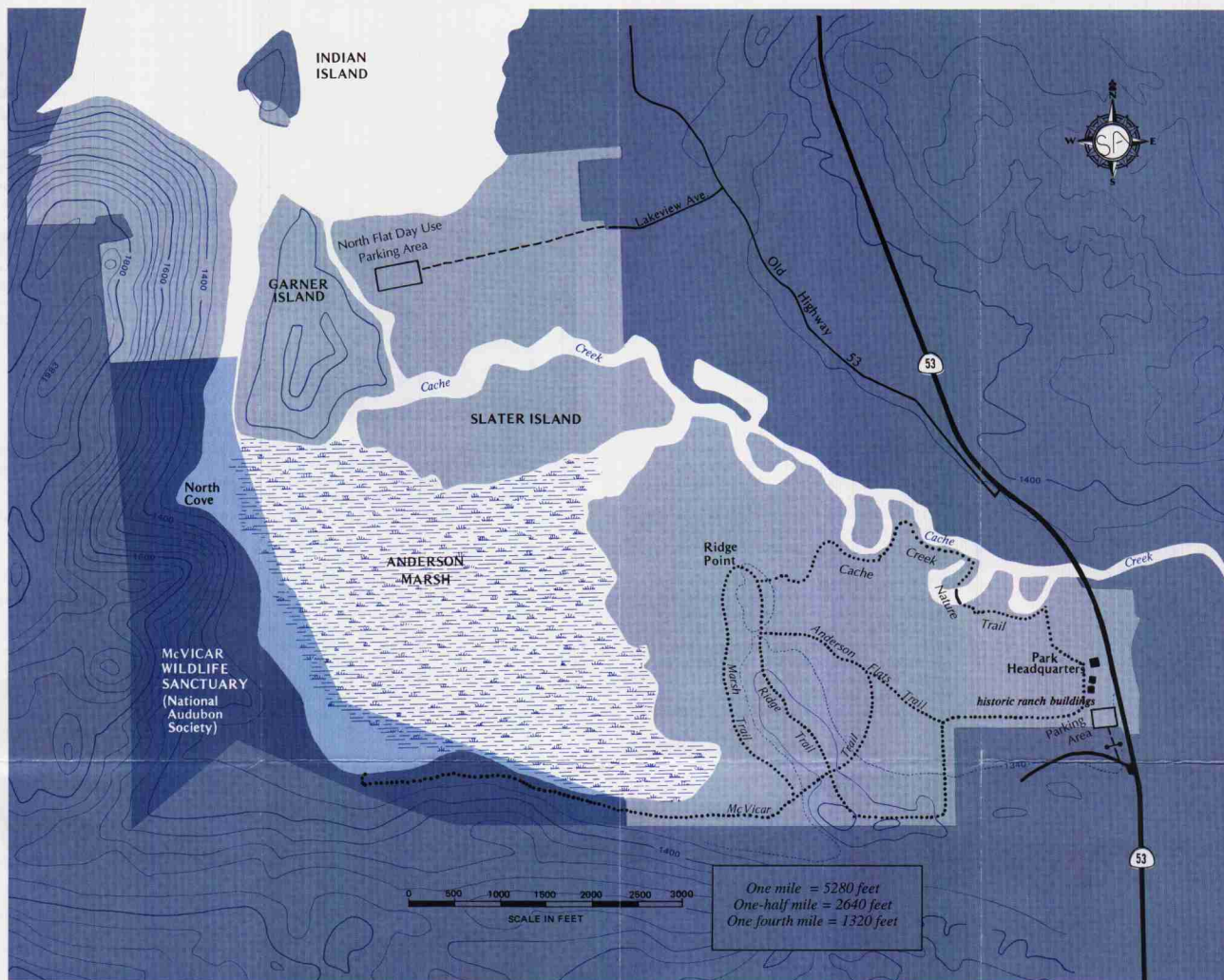


The Anderson family occupied this ranch for a span of 81 years.

PLEASE REMEMBER

Due to resource sensitivity, public safety, and the Natural Preserve classification of Anderson Marsh State Historic Park, the following regulations apply:

1. Archaeological resources exist — digging or disturbing these resources is prohibited.
2. All natural features are protected. Gathering and collecting are prohibited without an authorized permit.
3. Dogs, horses, and bicycles are not permitted on park trails.
4. Fires are not allowed in the park.
5. No smoking on trails or in public facilities.
6. Hunting and loaded firearms are prohibited.
7. Vehicles are permitted in authorized areas only. The speed limit is 15 MPH.
8. Diving is not permitted anywhere in State Parks except areas specifically designated for that purpose.



NATURAL HISTORY

Anderson Marsh State Historic Park protects several habitats including freshwater marsh, oak woodland, grasslands, and riparian woodland.

Five hundred and forty acres of wetlands or tule marsh within the 1,000-acre park have been designated as a natural preserve in an effort to protect this fragile habitat. Eighty four percent of the original marsh area on Clear Lake has been destroyed. The remaining tule marsh is vital to the ecosystem of the entire lake area because tules provided protection, food, and breeding areas for many species of fish, birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Large-mouth bass, crappie, bluegill, and catfish spend at least part of their life cycle among the tules. Birds such as the mallard,

western grebe, and American coot are often seen paddling close to the tules. You may even see a northwestern pond turtle sunning itself on a log in the marsh area, if you approach quietly.

Other kinds of wildlife that can be found in the marsh include the aquatic garter snake, frogs and toads, as well as raccoons, skunks, opossums, mink, muskrat, river otter, gray fox, and several species of bats. Besides providing a habitat for this wonderful diversity of wildlife, tules also filter the water that flows into the lake, thus decreasing the amount of nutrients that might cause excessive algae growth.

Majestic valley oaks and blue oaks dominate the drier oak woodland community. Throughout California, due to soil disturbance, grazing, and fire suppression, few valley oak seedlings ever reach maturity. Protection of oak woodlands at Anderson Marsh is therefore vital. Cooper's hawk, woodpeckers, and other birds that nest in tree cavities make their homes here. Black-tailed deer, western gray squirrel, California ground squirrel and black-tailed hare live here, with reptiles like rattlesnakes and western fence lizards.

The driest areas of this park are the grasslands. As spring wildflowers produce seeds, they attract seed-eating birds such as the house finch, the lesser and American goldfinch, and the ring-necked pheasant. Insect-eating birds and raptors such as the American kestrel and black-shouldered kite

also find food in this community. Ground-nesting western meadowlarks and killdeer add to the abundance of birdlife. Red-tailed hawks and coyotes pursue mice, voles, gophers, and ground squirrels. Newts, toads, lizards, and snakes also make the grassland their home.

The "riparian" community is the one closest to the water, along the lake and streambed. It features valley oaks, cottonwoods, willows, and many shrubs and smaller plants. Dense, lush foliage supports a wonderfully diverse population of animal life including some very special species. The rare and endangered bald eagle winters within the park, feeding on fish and carrion. Peregrine falcons, also considered a rare and endangered species, have been sighted here. Other birds found in this area include great blue herons, red-shouldered hawks, mourning doves, great horned owls, and Anna's hummingbirds.

If you move slowly and quietly along the trails through the many natural communities of Anderson Marsh, you may observe a bird, animal, or plant that you have never seen before. The park is a special place, providing a protected habitat for wildlife, while enabling visitors to encounter the natural wonders of the entire Clear Lake area.



CACHE CREEK NATURE TRAIL

The Cache Creek Nature Trail is a 1.1 mile route of level hiking that allows park visitors to surround themselves in one of California's most rapidly disappearing habitats—the riparian community. The short walk to this diverse streamside habitat gives visitors one of the park's best opportunities to view wildlife. Interpretive displays located at intervals along the trail describe some of the reasons why we need to protect our disappearing riparian areas and why this area has been classified as a natural preserve.



Anderson Marsh State Historic Park
Lower Lake, CA 95457
Mailing Address:
5300 Soda Bay Road
Kelseyville, California 95451
707/ 944-0688 or 707/ 279-2267
Open Wednesday thru Sunday
10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

TRAILS

Cache Creek Nature Trail: 1.1 mile with interpretive displays, through riparian habitat of willow, cottonwood, and oak

Anderson Flats Trail: .8 mile through grasslands with oak trees and seasonal wildflowers

Ridge Trail: 1.0 mile through oak woodland, featuring blue oaks

Marsh Trail: .5 mile through oak woodland, featuring a panoramic view of the marsh

McVicar Trail: .6 mile through oak woodland and grassland, leading into the Audubon sanctuary at the park boundary

